

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OCLR, EFIS, TBIO, TGEN, MX

SUBJECT:PORPOISE SURVEY OFF MEXICO

REF: (A) MEXICO 8281

1. DEPT. APPRECIATES EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS NOTED REFTEL, BUT DOES NOT BELIEVE JULY 19 MEETING ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IS PROPER FORUM IN WHICH TO PURSUE QUESTION OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY FLIGHTS ORIGINATING FROM MEXICAN TERRITORY. DEPT. IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT RAISING THIS ISSUE IN THAT FORUM COULD LEAD TO DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS, WHICH IS SEPARATE QUESTION AND VERY SENSITIVE ONE AT MOMENT BETWEEN USG AND GOM IN LOS CONTEXT.

2. DEPT. BELIEVES THAT BEST WAY TO PURSUE POSSIBILITIES OF CONDUCTING AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORK IS FOR EMBASSY TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPLORE WITH APPROPRIATE GOM OFFICIALS MECHANISMS FOR

MAKING SUCH WORK POSSIBLE AND FOR MEETING UNDERSTANDABLE
GOM CONCERNS IN THIS AREA.

3. USG DESIRE TO PROCEED WITH PRESENT PLANS FOR PORPOISE
SURVEY SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH GOM FISHERIES PERSONNEL,
FOCUSSING ATTENTION ON WAYS TO ACCOMPLISH SURVEY IN NEXT

FEW WEEKS IF POSSIBLE. FOR EXAMPLE, BECAUSE IN THIS CASE
MEXICAN PLANE AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE UTILIZED, EMBASSY
SHOULD CONSIDER SIMPLY SUGGESTING THAT AIRCRAFT CONTRACTOR
INITIATE REQUEST TO APPROPRIATE AGENCY FOR NECESSARY CLEAR-
ANCE TO CONDUCT AIRCRAFT SURVEY FLIGHT. INDICATE TO
CONTRACTOR THAT WE WILL COORDINATE WITH GOM FISHERIES
PERSONNEL AT THE SAME TIME TO SUBSTANTIATE VALIDITY/
PURPOSE OF SURVEY. IN ADDITION, WE MIGHT INDICATE THAT
DEFENSE PERSONNEL WOULD BE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN
FLIGHT TO ENSURE THAT NO PHOTOGRAPHS WOULD BE TAKEN OVER
LAND OR THE TERRITORIAL SEA.

4. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOM, EMBASSY SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT
TO IMPLY THAT THIS QUESTION OF DEVELOPING MECHANISMS
RELATING TO AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY FLIGHTS ORIGINATING FROM
MEXICAN TERRITORY HAS ANY RELATION TO QUESTION OF RESEARCH
CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS. KISSINGER

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